

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-20 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 2, 7, 12, and 17 and amended Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, and 18-20.

Figures 4 and 27 stand objected to because of minor errors. Accompanying this Amendment is a Submission of Replacement Drawings in which the minor errors noted in the Office Action have been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable consideration of the replacement formal drawings.

The drawings also stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because reference numeral 31 from Figure 4 is not recited in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to attend to this matter. Again, no new matter has been added.

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 16 has been amended to state that the computer program is stored on a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,124,731 (Knodt). Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Rather than rewriting those claims in independent form, independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended to

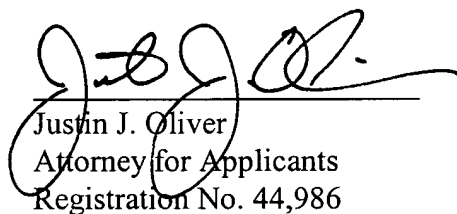
incorporate the features of Claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, respectively. Consequently, Applicants submit that those independent claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that the dependent claims are allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited above with respect to the independent claims. Applicants request individual consideration of the dependent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and allowance of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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